

# GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Grand Rapids/Allendale 49401

www.gvsu.edu



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THOMAS J. HAAS, President

**Grand Valley State University** was founded in 1960 to bring higher education to the state's second-largest metropolitan area — the diversified business and industrial region that includes Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties. Fully accredited, it serves the region from its roughly 1,300-acre main campus in Allendale, its downtown Grand Rapids campus, a campus in Holland, and centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. Students come to Grand Valley from 82 of Michigan's 83 counties. Although 95 percent of its students come from Michigan, enrollment comprises students from many other states in the nation and 82 foreign countries, including students from Africa, Asia, Australia, Central and South America, the Middle East, and Europe. Of recent graduates, nearly 90% percent are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Of the 2011-12 graduates who are employed, more than 84% percent are working in Michigan communities.

Grand Valley State grew slowly until about 1988, when it saw the beginning of very rapid growth, both in its popularity and stature. Enrollment has doubled since 1988 and is now 24,654. The academic profile of entering students puts Grand Valley State among the top universities in the state. For the 16th year in a row, Grand Valley was named one of America's 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc., a Best Midwestern College by *The Princeton Review*, one of America's Best Colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*, a Best Value for Tuition Dollar by the *Kaplan/Newsweek College Catalog*, one of the "most wired campuses" by *WIRED* magazine, and one of the country's greenest universities by Sierra Club, the highest ranking Michigan institution on the list. Grand Valley has campus chapters of 15 national honor societies.

To be transparent to the public, in 2007 the university produced the first of its annual Accountability Reports which can be viewed at [www.gvsu.edu/accountability](http://www.gvsu.edu/accountability). The Accountability Report provides a public review of the university's academic and economic performances, including the proper use of resources, and demonstrates the university's ability to educate successful students in the state of Michigan. The project has earned national attention for transparency and value, and was featured in the magazine of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education as a model for other institutions. A version of it is now used by the Michigan Legislature to measure performance at all 15 state supported universities.

A **liberal arts emphasis** teaches students critical thinking and problem resolution; an emphasis on diversity, sustainability, and community teaches students a range of thoughtful perspectives necessary for open inquiry. As an institution committed to teaching excellence, Grand Valley emphasizes personalized instruction, bolstered by relatively small classes — taught by faculty rather than graduate teaching assistants. Of its 864 full-time faculty members, 16.67% are minorities. Access to the libraries' collection of 563,781 volumes, more than 859,948 electronic journals and books, and 345 electronic databases is provided online from each campus and center, or from one's home or office computer. The libraries have employed the first commercial adoption worldwide of a web discovery service.

A focus on **international education** is reflected in foreign exchange and foreign study programs. More than 700 students took part in study abroad programs in 2011-2012. Grand Valley State University sponsors a variety of programs in China, Egypt, El Salvador, Australia, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Sweden, Poland, England, Taiwan, Japan, France, Germany, Spain, Mexico, and Russia.

Approximately 7,000 GVSU students annually participate in **internships** in business, industry, government, schools, hospitals, and public agencies — blending theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Engineering program includes a cooperative education component that provides for at least 12 months of on-the-job experience before the degree is granted, and the College of Education requires 18 credit hours of in-class experience combined with a degree in a subject matter content area.

Grand Valley consistently ranks as one of Michigan's top schools in the percentage of accounting graduates who pass the C.P.A. exams at the first sitting. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB International, the major accrediting body for business education, accredits the Seidman College of Business and the Accounting and Taxation Department. Of the 1,200 business schools in the United States, only 396 have earned AACSB accreditation and only 159 accounting departments are accredited. Seidman College of Business is named one of the Best 301 Business Schools by *The Princeton Review*.

**Thirty graduate programs** award master's degrees in accounting, biology, business administration, communications, computer information systems, criminal justice, education, engineering, English, health administration, nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, public administration, social work, special education, speech-language pathology, and taxation. Grand Valley also offers the Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree,

and an Education Specialist degree. Other career and professional programs include accounting, advertising and public relations, engineering, communications, computer sciences, business, hospitality and tourism management, international business, international relations, medical imaging, athletic training, therapeutic recreation, natural resource management, legal studies, criminal justice, nursing, social work, geology, and education — including special education.

The university's **Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy program** is one of only six accredited programs in public universities in Michigan. Its graduates have passed their certification exams in the top 95th percentile and are respected by health professionals throughout the state. The university is an integral partner with multiple healthcare systems, agencies, and institutions of higher education in the region, and the **Kirkhof College of Nursing** operates a community-based, academic, nurse-managed center. The university's pre-medical and pre-dental programs are highly regarded by medical and dental schools in Michigan and elsewhere, and GVSU graduates are accepted into medical and health-related schools at rates above the national average.

Faculty and graduate interns in social sciences and education help area communities meet needs in public administration, education, criminal justice, and social services. Examples include in-service training for teacher groups and school administrators, urban planning research and development, a summer police academy, programs for gifted and talented students, an annual summer camp for learning-disabled children, stress management workshops, public opinion polls, market surveys, and programs for senior citizens.

Established in 1984 after a comprehensive analysis of the economic and business needs of West Michigan, the **Business Services Office**, part of the **Seidman College of Business** in downtown Grand Rapids, is dedicated to building a strong link between academic programs and economic development and job creation in the region. The office serves as a vehicle for providing management-level education, training, economic research and consultation resources, the market analysis and planning services for existing and potential area businesses. Seidman College of Business is also home to the **U.S. Small Business Administration's state headquarters**, charged with management and oversight of the **Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center** network. This center, only the second in the country to be designated a "technology" development center, and the first federal program to place its state headquarters in West Michigan, offers no-cost counseling, low-cost training, market research, and advocacy for small businesses. The Grand Rapids SmartZone business incubator, located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences at Grand Valley State University, continues to successfully support the commercialization of science and emerging technologies by providing incubator/accelerator amenities to start-up businesses.

The **Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC)** is a 25,000-square-foot facility located on Muskegon Lake in the Muskegon 34-acre SmartZone. The facility features incubator space, research laboratories, a conference center, energy resource center, offices and meeting space. With the assistance of a large award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other funding partners, MAREC has acquired a large and highly sophisticated research buoy that is deployed on Lake Michigan to conduct Great Lakes wind energy research. The building, home to start-up companies that have the capacity to be catalysts for economic development in the area, was the first newly constructed facility in Michigan (and only the tenth in the country) to receive "gold certification" as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building. Other newly built buildings on campus have received LEED certification as well.

The **Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI)** conducts basic and applied research into Michigan's water resources and related topics, and offers outreach and educational services from the waterfront Lake Michigan Center in Muskegon. The AWRI operates two research vessels, the *D.J. Angus* and the *W.G. Jackson*. It brings applied research together with business, industry, agriculture, and government to develop proactive approaches to water quality and related environmental issues and offers an educational aquatic science outreach program for a variety of audiences, including K-12 students and teachers.

The mission of the **Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies** is to advance discussion of the American presidency among scholars, government leaders, student leaders and the public. **C-SPAN** has covered 5 of its conferences, and its website, [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org), is one of the fastest-growing websites in the nation devoted to the study of U.S. Presidents.

The **Van Andel Global Trade Center's** mission is to strengthen the community through increased global business by providing international consulting, training, and resources. The center has offered consulting services to more than 350 companies in Michigan.

The **Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership** ([www.johnsoncenter.org](http://www.johnsoncenter.org)) is the only comprehensive center in Michigan for the study of philanthropy, volunteerism, and

the nonprofit sector. The Johnson Center conducts community-based research projects, provides workshops and web-based resources for nonprofit leaders, and promotes effective philanthropy, community improvement, and excellence in nonprofit leadership through education, research and community service. The Johnson Center's **Community Research Institute** ([www.cridata.org](http://www.cridata.org)) has become a widely used community resource, providing innovative applied research and data to assist communities in assessing their needs and measuring the social impact of programs and services.

Grand Valley State University has a long-standing tradition and commitment to providing quality education for students. As part of this mission, the Grand Valley Board of Trustees seeks to impact public K-12 education through its leadership in Michigan's **Charter Schools**. Grand Valley chartered its first three schools in 1995, serving a total of 350 students. As we enter our 17th year as an authorizer, Grand Valley charts 51 charter schools serving 25,300 K-12 students.

The **Regional Math and Science Center**, housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences division, serves the science and mathematics education needs of the elementary and secondary schools in West Michigan. While the center focuses on providing professional development opportunities for practicing teachers and enrichment activities for pre-college students, pre-service teachers are also encouraged to participate in the center's activities. Many of the center's activities have developed as collaborative programs with community, business and industry partners. The Regional Math and Science Center also provides local school districts with curriculum development services that support the Michigan Curriculum Framework in science and mathematics. The center's staff is available for consultation, and a resource collection of exemplary teaching materials is open to local educators.

**Grand Forum**, an education outreach program serving senior citizens, provides the opportunity for individuals of diverse backgrounds to meet in an academic setting for intellectual stimulation and social exchange. Through lectures and discussions, Grand Forum allows its members to broaden their horizons while developing an appreciation for knowledge of new or familiar subjects.

The **Autism Education Center** seeks to give parents and professionals the knowledge and skills to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in reaching their greatest potential. The center offers resources and training through its Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project and participates in a statewide Autism Collaborative Endorsement program.

The **Meijer Broadcast Center** is the home of Grand Valley's public television and radio stations. WGVU-TV 35 and WGVK-TV 52, affiliated with the Public Broadcasting Service, present a variety of informative and entertaining programs including children's shows, public affairs, cultural offerings, and sports. WGVU 88.5 FM and AM 1480 (Grand Rapids) and WGVS 95.3 FM and 850 AM (Muskegon) are National Public Radio member stations that broadcast news and information programs. The station staff emphasizes a strong commitment to local news.

## Accreditations

Grand Valley State University is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. All other college and program accreditations will be found in the link to the university website, [www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu).

<i>Credit Enrollment (fall head count)</i>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
On-campus . . . . .	24,541	24,662	24,654